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CONTACT: Ed Mosey, BPA (503) 230-5131

**BPA to use implosive devices to construct new transmission line
Some residents of Spokane might hear bangs Aug. 31-Sept. 2**

SPOKANE, Wash. –The Bonneville Power Administration will detonate state-of-the-art implosive devices at the point where the lengths of wire connect to each other on the new Grand Coulee-Bell transmission line. Work begins Aug. 30 in an area about three-fourths of a mile north of Spokane. The local community will hear a number of loud explosions during the day beginning Aug. 31 within the construction zone.

Adjacent landowners and local law enforcement officials have been notified about the work. The implosive charges, which are set on lines suspended from towers, make a loud bang accompanied by some smoke. The immediate area will be secured before the detonations, which pose no danger to property and land. Recognizing the extremely dry conditions this summer, additional fire prevention precautions have been taken, officials of the agency said.

The Spokane County sheriff, the Spokane Fire Department and the Washington State Patrol offices have been notified of these activities and will receive daily updates as the work proceeds.

“These implosive fittings are commonly used by the utility industry and have been successfully installed throughout the world,” said Mark Korsness, project manager.

The work from Aug. 30 to Sept. 2 will occur at BPA’s Bell Substation, which is located adjacent to the former Kaiser Meade aluminum plant north of Spokane. Implosive fittings will be used periodically in the Spokane area between August and November.

The new Grand Coulee-Bell 500-kilovolt transmission line replaces 84-miles of existing 115-kV wood pole transmission line and is one of several critical projects BPA has planned to solve power reliability problems in the Northwest. The line will run from BPA’s Bell Substation to Grand Coulee Dam and is scheduled to be completed and energized by December 2004.

For more information, contact Ed Mosey at (503) 230-5359.